

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The American family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities, our state and our nation; and,

Whereas, An average of 986 South Dakota children and youth require placement in family foster homes each month as a result of abuse and/or neglect; and,

Whereas, South Dakota currently has 933 licensed family foster homes that provide 24-hour care and supervision for abused and/or neglected children; and,

Whereas, These families open their homes and hearts and give hope to children of the state of South Dakota whose families are in crisis, play a vital role helping children and families heal and reconnect, and launch children into successful adulthood; and,

Whereas, Dedicated foster families frequently adopt children in foster care, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and,

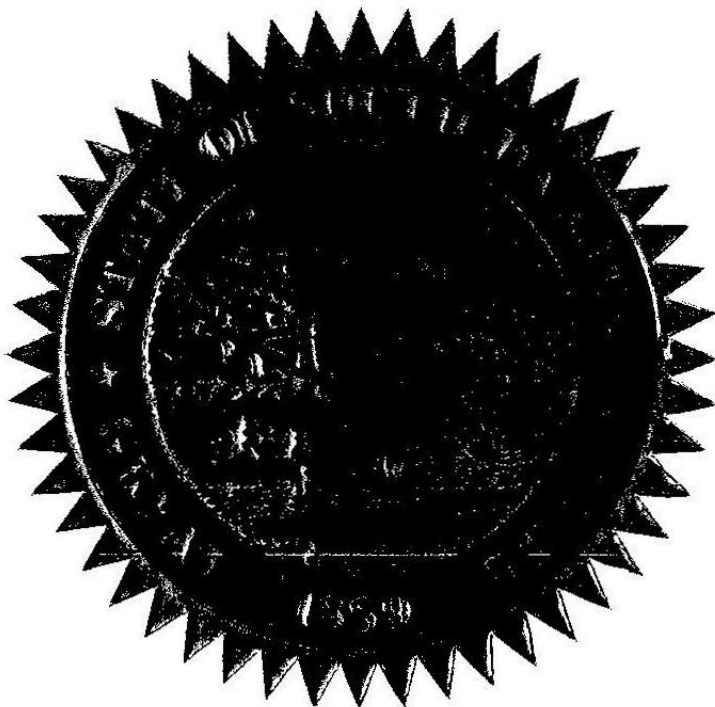
Whereas, There are numerous individuals and public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents; and,

Whereas, May 2006 has been designated as National Foster Parent Month:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2006, as

FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all residents and citizens to volunteer their talents and generous spirits on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents and the professional staff committed to working with them during this month and throughout the year.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State